SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — October 2, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

WAR or PEACE, it is now up to the US President to answer

SO far there has not been any indication that the US administration wants meaningful negotiations. It continues to dodge a response to the RSVN PRG proposals reiterated many times and again on last September 11, 1972.

Clearly enough, the latest offer of the PRG was made in the context of the collapse of "Vietnamization," the most serious ever weakening and isolation of the Saigon regime, on the one hand, and of the winning posture of the South Vietnamese patriots, the growing strength of their government and resistance forces and the continual consolidation and expansion of their liberated areas. This state of things explains why the overture has been widely regarded as a new contribution to peace, a "key" to a settlement, "a token of good will" and an unmistakable expression of our desire for an early end to the war.

Public attention has been particularly drawn to two basic demands made clear in the September 11 announcement, which epitomize the PRG sensible and reasonable position regarding the termination of US aggression and restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

For it opens the door to a solution based on the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and prompted by the realities in South Viet Nam, realities characterized by the simultaneous existence of two regimes and two armies and of other political forces. It is also consistent with popular sentiment because it reflects the spirit of national concord and favours the joining of forces of all parties in South Viet Nam on the basis of equality, mutual respect and abstention from any take-over by any side. Consequently it has been suggested to form a tripartite national concord government in South Viet Nam, each component enjoying the same rate of membership and absolute equality. The PRG and the Saigon regime without Nguyen Van Thieu are to appoint each its own representatives and other political forces' spokesmen are to be chosen by means of negotiations.

Such an arrangement is thoroughly fair, realistic and honourable for every party.

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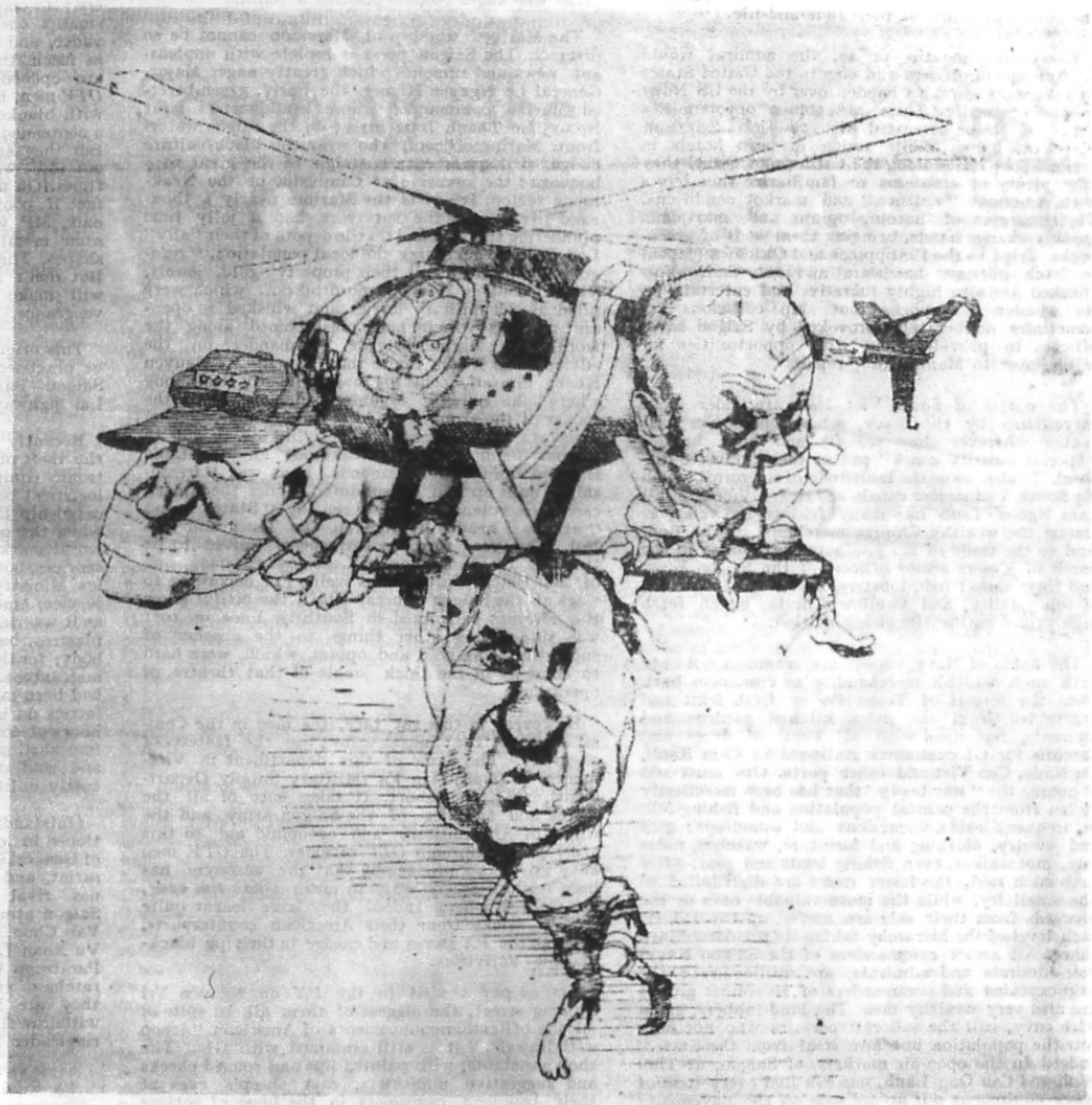

Nixon still hanging on

(Credit LNS)

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Continued)

8.—SEA TIGERS AND BLACK VULTURES

THE "get-rich-quick" methods of the Saigon generals have brought them new records. The legendary wealthy figures of French colonial times have now been relegated to the background: the latifundist Tran Trinh Trach, who had enough rice in his granaries to food hundreds of thousands of people; Nguyen Huu Hao, the father-in-law of ex-Emperor Bao Dai, the *doc phu su* who owned immense areas of ricefields in My Tho and Bac Lieu; the rich Chinese merchants of the Hui Bon Hoa type, who had rows of tenement houses. Even in their heyday, they could in no way stand in comparison with present-day generals. Because, in the words of a wealthy Bac Lieu landowner, their fortunes are to the generals' what a little knob is to a whole TV set!

In these years of 1970-71, for the first time in history, there have appeared Vietnamese millionaires (if their wealth is counted in US dollars) or billionaires (if it is reckoned in terms of Saigon piastres). International bankers now show a healthy respect for Vietnamese moneybags and put them on an equal footing with American, British, French and Japanese nabobs. Of course President Nguyen Van Thieu and General Cao Van Vien are counted by Saigon and international business circles among those Croesuses.

These men have invented very effective ways for filling their pockets.

Take for instance the case of Admiral Tran Van Chon, the commander of the Saigon Navy. He and his predecessor, Admiral Chung Tan Cang, now military governor of Saigon, together with their subordinates of the Saigon naval forces, have all got rich "at the speed of PT boats" according to the colourful simile of their rank-and-file.

Every three months or so, the admiral would send groups of officers and men to the United States to take over warships handed over by the US Navy to its Saigon ally. These are golden opportunities both for those entrusted with the job and their bosses at home. While living in posh hotels in various port cities along the Californian coast, they have plenty of occasions to familiarize themselves with American "culture" and market conditions. Their cargoes of heroin, opium and marijuana quickly change hands, bringing them wads of greenbacks. Trips to the Philippines and Okinawa (Japan) to fetch military hardware and get their ships checked are also highly lucrative and entertaining. No wonder it happens that ship collisions are sometimes deliberately provoked by Saigon naval officers to provide them with opportunities for sailing over to Manila for "repair."

The coasts of South Viet Nam are under close surveillance by the Navy, whose ships can cast anchor wherever they see fit and have besides "special security zones" put at their exclusive disposal. It also owns the multitude of rivercraft which ply South Vietnamese canals and rivers. Vice-admiral Lam Nguon Tanh has many friends and relatives among the wealthy Chinese merchants of Cho Lon. And so the trade of sea-products is of course in the hands of Messrs senior officers of the Saigon Navy and their clans: fish, lobsters, *nuoc mam* (fish brine) of top quality, and swallow's nests, which fetch high prices on the Hongkong market.

The holds of Navy vessels are crammed not only with such valuable merchandise as cinnamon bark from the forests of Trung Bo or fresh fruit and vegetables from the delta kitchen gardens and orchards, but also with all kinds of drugs and narcotis for GI customers stationed in Cam Ranh, Da Nang, Cua Viet and other ports. One must add of course the "war booty" that has been mercilessly stolen from the coastal population and fishing-folk in frequent raids, incursions and round-ups: gold and jewelry, clothing and furniture, watches, radio sets, motorbikes, even fishing boats and gear. After each such raid, the lesser items are distributed to the small fry, while the more valuable ones or the proceeds from their sale are moved up the ladder, each level of the hierarchy taking its pre-determined share. All senior commanders of the Saigon Navy, vice-admirals and admirals, are millionaires; the ship captains and commanders of rivercraft groups are also very wealthy men. The land-lubbers, green with envy, call the sailors "corsairs who not only rob the population but also steal from the State." Indeed in the open-air markets of Saigon, at Thoi Binh and Cau Ong Lanh, one can find every item of Navy equipment put up for sale on the pavement: buoys, compasses, blankets, hammocks, electric generators and what not!

The airmen, for their part, do business in their own way, with the speed and efficiency worthy of the jet era, under the leadership of such men as "Air Vice Marshal" Nguyen Cao Ky formerly and General Tran Van Minh at present. They deal in light-weight, high-value merchandise: gold, either in foil or bars, diamonds, heroin... Missions to Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Bangkok, Manila or Taipei are highly profitable occasions in which base, wing and flight commanders operate in close cooperation with Southeast Asia-based international dealers. The goods travel under the protection of air-force military police and leave the airports in special air-force vans or even helicopters, which completely stymie customs officers and economic police. Air-force officers at the big Tan Son Nhut base also run a transit business catering for private traders with especially valuable goods to ferry to various places of the speed and security with which the precious cargoes travel: 200,000 Saigon piastres for the transport of a kilogram of heroin from Saigon to Nha Trang; 300,000 to Da Nang; and 350,000 to Phu Bai, further north. The money is given in advance and no receipt is of course given. The sender gives the address at which the goods are to be delivered, usually a public square or a posh restaurant, and also the sign at which the receiver is to be recognized.

Big money also comes to the airmen from the sale of US-supplied equipment: spark-plugs (2,000 piastres apiece), special pilot's watches (40,000), plane wreckages (50,000 piastres a ton)...

The Marines' worship of Mammon cannot be so discreet. The Saigon press is replete with unpleasant news and rumours which greatly anger Major-General Le Nguyen Khang, the burly, green-beret-ed Marine commander whose headquarters is at No. 15 Le Thanh Tong Street on the Saigon waterfront. Marine officers, who wear the black-vulture badge, still speak with nostalgia of the great 1970 bonanza: the invasion of Cambodia in the Neakluong region. It costs the Marines nearly a thousand lives, but the survivors had a jolly time plundering the food and textile depots of their "ally" Lon Nol and stripping the local population, "refugees" included, of all their property: gold, jewels, Vespa scooters, Honda motorbikes... which were piled up on military lorries and whisked to open-air markets which had mushroomed along the frontier. A Marine brigade commander, on the advice of no less a figure than General Le Nguyen Khang himself, sent his own wife to Neakluong where she quickly organized, jointly with the spouse of the Cambodian local commander, Colonel Tasayat, an efficient channel linking Saigon to Phnom Penh through Neakluong for profitable trade in opium and diamonds. Thus was "friendship" built up and consolidated, under the Americans' benevolent eyes, between the "States" and "armies" headed by Nguyen Van Thieu and Lon Nol. The year 1970, in retrospect, proved to be the apex of the fortune of Le Nguyen Khang, and of his Black Vultures as well. For according to wags at the Saigon General Staff, the pitiful show the Marines performed in Southern Laos in 1971 was due among other things to the absence of such stimuli as gold and opium, which were hard to come by in the thick jungle of that theatre of operations.

However, in this rat race, the men in the Commissariat of the Saigon army are the fastest of them all. The name of this department in Vietnamese is *Quan Tiep Vu* (Military Supply Department), *QTV* for short. It takes care of all the stores and supplies of the Saigon army, and the whole of US military and economic aid to this army passes through *QTV* services. The *QTV* men have grown so prosperous that the acronym has been read by Saigon wags to mean *Quan tim vang*, or Gold Rushers. Indeed they have learnt quite a few tricks from their American counterparts, who run the *PX* stores and engage in thriving black-market activities.

Let us pay a visit to the *PX* on Nguyen Tri Phuong street, the biggest of them all. In spite of all the official announcements of American "troop withdrawals," it is still crammed with GIs. The shop assistants, with painted lips and rouged cheeks and suggestive miniskirts, cast sheep's eyes at their American customers in the hope of getting generous tips. The rooms are filled with all kinds of goods: motorbikes, refrigerators, television sets, tape-recorders, cameras, fabrics, the newest gadgets from the US, Japan, France, Canada...— soldat specially low prices.

IN principle the *PX's* are off limits to the Vietnamese. Yet black-marketeers wait in throngs at the door with wads of 500-piastre bills in their pockets, for the kind-hearted GIs are ready to help them get any commodities they want, against hard cash of course. Getting a 9-inch TV set for them will bring the GI 15,000 piastres' net profit; a Honda moped will fetch them 10,000. The whole deal takes five minutes and twenty steps down the street. No wonder that many GIs have sung the praise of Saigon as a new Eldorado.

US commissaries, however, look down on such paltry deals. Theirs are of a quite different magnitude. Let us follow for instance an American convoy (usually from 5 to 20 trucks) carrying military supplies along one of the main highways leading from Saigon to Vung Tau, Tay Ninh or even nearby Bien Hoa. At a given place, the convoy would screech to a sudden stop and some lorries would be quickly unloaded. The crates are dumped onto the roadside and quickly taken by waiting men to convenient hiding-places, and the convoy would start rolling again. The whole operation lasts only a few minutes. There is no discussion, no haggling. The prices have been fixed in advance and paid on delivery: 10,000 piastres for a big crate, 6,000 for a smaller one. Their contents are not known in advance, and that is the spice of the deal, which is as fascinating as a roulette game. When the crates are opened, the Vietnamese buyers, civilians or *QTV* men, hold their breath: if the boxes are filled with blankets of articles of clothing, they will give a contended nod, for the profits will be quite sizable. But they are really mad with joy if the goods turn out to be watches, electronic radio valves, or lighter flints. On the other hand, they will put on a long face if confronted with heaps of GI training manuals, MP white helmets, rolls of toilet paper, or some metal or plastic machine parts of uncanny shapes. These will have to be quickly disposed of. But don't feel sorry for the gambler-buyers, they will make up for the losses later, and with a vengeance.

This original way of doing business has begun to be practised by *QTV* men along such routes as the Saigon—Baria, Saigon—Lai Khe and Da Nang—Chu Lai highways.

Recently a big scandal erupted in Saigon about the theft of 420 tons of copper hardware and electronic equipment from the giant Long Binh US logistical base. The stolen goods were loaded on the cargoship Dong Nai bound for Singapore, at a time when the price of copper was shooting up on the world market. The deal involved big shots in many services, both American and Vietnamese: the Economics Ministry, the port administration, the customs service, American senior officers, etc. Palmgreasing, as it was later revealed, took as much as 30 million piastres, but it apparently failed to satisfy everybody, for the beans were eventually spilled by some malcontent. The goods, according to the exposure, had been taken to the wharves by American military lorries during fifteen consecutive nights, in curfew hours of course! They consisted of brand-new artillery shell-cases (the warheads had been unscrewed and sold out to junk-yard dealers in Cholon) and costly military signal equipment.

Outstanding among the Vietnamese names mentioned in connection with this big deal are those of General Dong Van Khuyen, head of the Commissariat, and other *QTV* senior officers. Their fortunes rival those of other top brass of the Saigon army: Admirals Chung Tan Cang and Tran Van Chon, Air-force Generals Tran Van Minh and Vu Xuan Lanh, Marine General Le Nguyen Khang, Paratroop General Du Quoc Dong, and other hierarchs of the *Khaki Party*. Small wonder that they are bemused by the prospect of American withdrawal and the wobbling posture of their ringleader Nguyen Van Thieu.

(To be continued)

THANH NAM

An ultimatum to the Saigon press

FOLLOWING a series of arbitrary decisions such as the "Nine security measures," the decree on "security of the rear," etc., on Aug. 4, 1972 Nguyen Van Thieu, on the strength of "full powers" he had wrested from the Saigon "National Assembly," promulgated a new decree on the press, which was hit a new blatant fascist move to completely gag public opinion in South Viet Nam cities now increasingly critical of his corrupt regime.

Under the new law, directors of newspapers, printing houses or publishing-houses wishing to engage in newspaper business have to deposit a sum from 20 million to 50 million Saigon piastres (approximately from 48,000 to 120,000 dollars at the official rate in Saigon) allegedly to "ensure prompt payment of fines, censorship fees and other penalties" Thieu's new press law also stipulates that "any newspaper seized more than once shall have to suspend publication until decision by the Military Tribunal, without any right to protest." "Any criticism directed against the President, Vice-President and other authorities under whatever form shall be prohibited..."

This new bill is really a law of the jungle aimed at muzzling progressive newspapermen, having justice at heart, and paving the way to monopolization of the press by Thieu's back writers. On the other hand, he wants to reduce thousands of journalists and workers in printing and publishing houses and their families to unemployment and misery. The American agency *UPI* observed that the only publishers who can deposit the required sum are pro-government people, while the French agency *AFP* commented that the new press act would lead to the closing down of the 35 dailies in Saigon, since they had only limited funds.

Immediately after the announcement the Thieu administration brought on Aug. 5, 1972 to Court 52 cases of "violation of press regulations," 31 of which were fined from 100,000 to 300,000 piastres.

In the two months of May and June 1972, more than 300 newspaper issues were confiscated, 7 journalists and editors were jailed, 32 others fined. 200 Saigon newspaper correspondents were forcibly enrolled into the Army. Dozens of foreign journalists were expulsed. Additional fuel was poured by this new press decree on the feeling of progressive pressmen and the people in South Vietnamese cities which had already been running high against existing absurd and draconian regulations. But it will be unable to silence the voice of justice which has been loudly condemning the US-Thieu fascist and dictatorial regime in its death throes, praising the resounding successes won by the people and expressing the deep aspirations of popular masses for peace, independence, US troops withdrawal, Thieu's resignation, formation of a national concord government, etc. Instead it will grow more articulate.

A wave of protest against Thieu's new press law is mounting not only in press circles and among the townsfolk, but also in both houses of the Saigon "Parliament." 13 Saigon dailies suspended publication on Aug. 23 and 24 in protest. The other newspapers described the new decree as "so harsh as to force many newspapers to close down." Up to Sept. 4, 1972, 12 major newspapers announced their closure. The 16-man Saigon Press Council, after making public a communiqué and sending its representatives to meet Thieu and lodge its protest, took an unanimous decision on August 26 to resign in a body. Many members of the Saigon Upper and Lower Houses collected signatures to petitions or came out against the bill. One of them said that with the new act Thieu has raised the removal of press freedom to the level of a "state policy."

Initial successes have been won by pressmen in South Viet Nam's cities who rely on the strength of other social strata to fight a grim battle for democratic liberties including freedom of the press: on Sept. 2, Thieu was compelled to declare that be would water "down certain provisions of the new decree" and "extend the deadline for the deposits."

The fight of press circles in South Vietnamese cities against Thieu's decree will have to continue with even greater vigour. It will be carried out without let up and in close coordination with the struggle of the broad masses for the conquest and safeguard of national rights to independence and freedom, of which freedom of the press is part and parcel. As a Saigon journalist rightly puts it in *Song Than* "the fight for freedom of the press will not stop, it has only started."

AI THI

Saigon under government by decrees

TAKING advantage of the state of war, local dictator Nguyen Van Thieu rammed through Law No. 005/72 in a most irregular, illegal and scandalous way. This law gave him full powers for 6 months and enabled him to take all political, military and economic measures that pleased him and the US Embassy. A whole series of decrees has been consequently proclaimed, drawing bitter comments from Saigon's so-called free press which has felt the approach of its last hours. Instead of writing editorials, which cannot say everything they want to say, owing to a harsh censorship and repression, Saigon newspapers now print meaningful photos. Thus, the August 28 issue of *Dien Tin* (Dispatch) ran the picture of a fruit-vendor, sad and thoughtful, with eyes fixed on her stall of unsold letchis. "At 300 piastres a kilo of wild letchis," explained the caption, "fruit has become a luxury beyond the reach of the poor who must give priority to rice." *Doc Lap* (Independence) published on the same day the photo of an white-haired old woman-beggar, in rags and with tired eyes. At her side, a worn-out, torn palm-tree hat. Below was this terse caption: "Beggars, a big urban problem."

More explicit was a reportage printed by *Dispatch* on the wretched life of the trickshaw drivers. A veteran of the Saigon army—one-legged, war-wounded and theoretically a favourite of the regime as far as employment is concerned—has nevertheless to pedal all day long. Each time he comes to see an enterprise owner, he gets this unchanged answer: "No vacancy." And the author of the article concluded: "The one-legged trickshaw driver who has to toil for his living provides a vivid image of the present-day life in Saigon."

Decree 007 and the death throes of the free press

This decree, made public on August 4, 1972, is a Damocles sword—a true knife stabbed into the throat of non-governmental newspapers in Saigon. Each daily has to deposit 20 million piastres, and each magazine—weekly, bi-monthly or monthly—10 million piastres in prevision of eventual fines. More serious is the stipulation on the closing down of any periodical confiscated for the second time (in previous months, the bulk of newspapers were seized five, ten, twenty, even thirty times on charge of carrying comments regarded as inimical to the regime or news factual but detrimental to the government); in case of appeals, the penalty is put enforced all the same pending decision to the contrary by the Court Martial. Breaches of the new press law—incitement to violence or rebellion, publication of articles harmful to national security or public order, propaganda for communist neutrality — is liable to fines up to 12,000 dollars (5,100,000 piastres) and to sentences up to 5 years of hard labour. Hence general opposition from owners and editors of newspapers including such anti-communist organs as *Xay Dung* (Construction) (catholic) and *Chinh Luan* (Political Opinion) (of the Dai Viet Party). The decision to resign collectively taken on August 29, 1972 by all members of the Press Council — a liaison organ between the press and the government—in protest against decree 007 was given prominence in many dailies and magazines.

Dan Chu Moi (New Democracy) announced on August 31 that the speaker of the Saigon Senate (catholic lawyer Nguyen Van Huyen) had sent to Thieu a motion of protest against this decree, from the Senate Information Committee, with his personal view that such press regulations should be revised to allow it to "freely" fulfil its duties.

By September 15, 14 out of 43 Saigon dailies of various tendencies had closed down and others had announced their forthcoming suspension. *Duoc Nha Nam* (Viet Nam's Torch) expressed its profound regret not to be in a position to continue a trade considered by many as a real sacred duty. *Construction* wrote, "We cannot bow to decree 007. We want to hold our head high after nine years of struggle (that is since November 1, 1963, date of the overthrow of the Diem regime officially labelled fascist). *Political Opinion* which had thoroughly supported the draft law on full powers for Thieu, expressed a rather belated view that the caution money was "too much" and that "no publication would escape the danger of being stifled by the government."

Although Thieu had soft pedalled by extending the dateline for depositing the security till September 15, the wave of protest went on unabated. *Viet Nam's Torch* affirmed that all Saigon journalists were against decree 007 it described as fascist. As a matter of fact, no papers, including pro-governmental ones, dared to approve the decree, and against the voluntary suspension of many Saigon newspapers, only one magazine announced its future appearance: it belonged to a pro-US banking group, which could afford a deposit of 20 million piastres and the risk of losing it.

Under the caption "The Saigon press at a grave and decisive hour," an article printed in *Indochina* wrote, "Thieu assaults, threatens and chokes the press into inability to faithfully reflect the conditions of living and aspirations of the people."

Humour at the service of militants

Humour has become, in Saigon as under other fascist regimes, an effective weapon among others against oppression. Saigon journalists show no lack of humour. In *Dispatch*, the following profession of faith signed by "Le, the sincere man" could be read: "When thing one cannot say all, one says a part. What cannot be expressed openly, is said obliquely, in half-veiled words. The Vietnamese language perfectly fits such ways..."

Applying this method, a Catholic priest, Father Lan, wrote in *Doi Dien* (Confrontation), No. 39 in September 1972, a humoristic article castigating Thieu's censorship, under the title: "The Government's great art... of extolling the Communists." The US President is referred to in the article as "Venerated Grandpa Nixon," and his Saigon Servant as "Uncle Thieu," and censorship as "the policy of knife, scissors and chisel"; "Would the government apply this policy to national history and compel everybody to learn for instance that Viet Nam existed only since October 3, 1971 when the daughter of the Cross-bred Emperor laid a hatch of 94 and a half eggs (a hint to Thieu's forged elections in which he boasted of 94.36 per cent of the votes), or that "the August Revolution was the masterpiece of Uncle Nguyen Van Thieu and Venerated Grandpa Nixon." Thieu is not yet killed by ridicule. This former French-paid guard now "Americanized" for US "Vietnamization" purposes, has indeed deaf ears a thick skin!

Scanning the Saigon press

QUANG TRI

Over 80 days and nights of stubborn fighting

★ **More than 24,000 US-Saigon troops wiped out** *(including 2 brigades, 11 battalions and 39 companies destroyed or decimated).*

★ **180 aircraft shot down or destroyed.**

★ **240 military vehicles** *(including 90 tanks and armoured cars)* **and 220 heavy guns destroyed or seized.**

★ **30 ammunition and fuel dumps burnt down.**

ON June 28, the US-Thieu Command began a major military operation against the newly-liberated areas of Quang Tri province.

They deployed the biggest and most powerful forces ever in a single operation in the war with US air and sea power as the decisive force to clear the way for the Saigon troops. Considering the small size of the battlefield in Quang Tri, this aero-naval array was the largest ever in the war annals. Apart from the tactical aircraft, B.52s used by the US in Quang Tri alone totalled 100, or close to one quarter of the whole of the US strategic air fleet. The tonnage of bombs and shells rained by US planes and warships on Quang Tri city and its surroundings in a 2-month period was the equivalent to 7 Hiroshima atomic bombs. All the 2 divisions of the Saigon general reserve were involved in this operation. Later on, Saigon rangers were moved in as reinforcements. They stopped at no heinous crimes. In an obvious effort to exterminate everything living, they put into use all kinds of armoury available in the Indochina battle zone, from 15,000 pounders, laser-guided bombs and chemical weapons to poisonous gas. They brought the aero-naval war to an unprecedented degree of violence and barbarism and at the same time made the most of the monsoon weather to launch counter-attacks.

Nevertheless, all their exertions resulted only in pushing the Saigon troops into a death trap. In 82 days, they could advance only 10 miles or barely 200 yards a day at the cost of more than 300 casualties only to enter a strip of land completely in ruins which they themselves had lost no time to declare they were not sure of holding.

It was a bloody experience for US-Saigon elite forces.

The PLAF turned Quang Tri into a theatre of operation where major annihilation battles were fought against the enemy. After more than 2 months of non-stop fighting, the armed forces and people of Quang Tri put out of action over 24,000 enemy troops. The airborne division of the Saigon strategic reserve was exhausted and had to be pulled out of the combat area for replenishment. The marines, sent in as replacement, in their turn sustained heavy casualties and were so depleted that rangers had to be transferred from other places to beef up the operating troops. According to the enemy's own admission, the Saigon toll from Liberation artillery fire ran to the hundred daily, and sometimes a single PLAF soldier with his AK could hold in check and rout a company of Saigon troops... It was a devastating blow at the most important forces of the US-paid army on the South Viet Nam battlefield.

For all their tremendous war efforts the US-Saigon Command still failed to turn the tide. Their passivity remained unchanged and they continued to sustain severe losses in series of PLAF attacks in many battlefields. Their strength kept waning and their field of activity narrowing down. Right on the Quang Tri battlefront they remain under siege and come under constant fire from My Chanh to Quang Tri city, from Trieu Phong to Hai Lang.

The unyielding and resourceful resistance of the Quang Tri fighters, especially in the city area, which successfully faced the US air and naval forces and destroyed a major part of the Saigon troop strength, was a peak in revolutionary heroism.

In this 82-day period under a deluge of enemy hardware, regular troops, regional troops and guerillas in the PLAF of Quang Tri have set a bright example of extraordinary stamina and courage. In a revolutionary war, the wiping out of adverse man-power is very important and the fighters of Quang Tri have proved highly effective in this respect. Each Liberation foot soldier has been credited with good performances in hand-to-hand combat at a ratio of one to 20, one to 50 and even one to 100. The Liberation gunners' deadly shellings have often cut enemy formations into pieces, striking fear into their hearts. Signalmen, sappers, transportation fighters and corpsmen, with courage and creativeness, have effectively helped the fighting against overwhelming odds. As for the local people, they have shown great loyalty and devotion to the Liberation fighters.

The Quang Tri armed forces and people have added an epic to the history of Viet Nam's great anti-US struggle for national salvation. Fierce fighting is going on in Quang Tri. The local armed forces and people are bringing into full play their offensive posture to attack the enemy in all directions, wipe out more enemy manpower and move forward to fail this US-Saigon military adventure.

Battery 4, 3rd artillery company, Quang Tri PLAF, in action, supporting foot soldiers

Field discussion of combat plan

WAR or PEACE...

(Continued from page 1)

WHAT effort has the Nixon government made for peace's sake to date? At variance with the US President's boast in his nomination address that he had made tens of thousands of miles on the path of negotiations, he has not budged an inch in the Viet Nam talks. The Saigon rule's propaganda media are still blaring its opposition to a tripartite government of national concord while its US master is holding on to his 8 points and stepping up, in the teeth of universal criticisms, his extermination war in South Viet Nam, his aggression against Cambodia and Laos and his air and naval assaults on North Viet Nam.

Joint US-Saigon exertions to scuttle the Paris Conference are going on while the American and Thieu delegates keep ringing the changes and advancing arguments, long rejected by public opinion as utterly absurd. Their reiterated charge that the PRG-suggested government of national concord is but a trick to operate a take-over without an election, that it is a manœuvre to impose a Communist rule on South Viet Nam can hardly hold water, while they are sticking to their aggressive and bellicose May 8 position.

Such a stance completely ignores the undeniable fact that at present in South Viet Nam a people's government and army exists, and is thriving while the US tool of aggression, the Saigon regime, is in a desperate plight. It is a challenge to common sense to try to have it recognised as constitutional and legal and as the only existing administration. Mr Nixon has proposed a presidential election. There is no doubt that to take part in it, various South Vietnamese political groupings will have to abide by the Saigon constitution. Moreover, between the cease-fire and the election, the Saigon administration is to continue and to act as caretaker. Though Thieu is to resign a month before the voting, this is bound to unfold under his tyranny and to lead to the consolidation of his rule and obliteration of the revolutionary regime. The US-proposed "cease-fire in place," in such conditions, will boil down to a termination of our resistance for national salvation, to the reduction of the Liberation fighters, the patriots, the leaders of the NFL and of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces to the status of "members of political forces," allowed to run candidates in the legislative and presidential elections. Mr Nixon's ulterior motive is transparent: bolster up his client rule, a wild dream he wants to realize with artfulness after failing to do so in the past ten years with elaborate strategies and innumerable legions.

Nevertheless, Nixon and Co describe their demand as "generous" and have "rejected any move that would impose a particular form of government on the people of the South Viet Nam" (Kissinger at his Washington September 9, 1972 press conference). It seems that the hallmark of US "generosity" is to keep its endeavour to force the acceptance of a US-installed and fostered regime which it has stopped at no atrocities to make viable, as an instrument of its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The US accusation of the PRG trying to impose a regime of its own choice can be more relevantly turned back on its author who has been doing nothing else in South Viet Nam with "Americanization" and "Vietnamization" and now with a "re-Americanized" war. Its "generous" 8 points have no other purpose than maintain its quislings in office.

THE PRG has made it plain in its September 11 statement that it is ready to reach an agreement with the US administration to impose neither a Communist regime nor a US-sponsored government on South Viet Nam. It is a reasonable offer because every one knows that its author is no one else than the South Vietnamese people's genuine representative, the PRG. Born in the heat of combat, tempered in the crucible of the fighting, growing up under deluges of bombs and bullets, it has shown unqualified loyalty and dedication to the people who have been doing every thing in their power to preserve it. It is unquestionably an embodiment of the masses' independence, sovereignty and right to self-determination. However, taking into consideration the facts of life in South Viet Nam, i.e. the parallel existence of two regimes and two armies and of other political entities, it is for the achievement of national concord, union of all parties on the basis of equality, mutual respect and no seizure of control by any side and guaranteed democratic freedoms for the people. To this effect, a tripartite government of national concord is to be set up with the equal participation of each party, as caretaker administration during the interim period and as organizer of truly free and democratic general elections.

It is sheer bad faith to label such a proposal consistent with reason and sentiment an attempt to "impose a Communist regime," a trick to perform "a take-over without an election." The US objection, a smokescreen for its policy of aggression and neo-colonialism of unheard-of cruelty, has been dismissed by world progressives and shattered to pieces by the PRG proposition's glowing righteousness.

THE Paris Conference has been dragging its feet, the blame for which must be laid on the Nixon administration. The PRG has made many efforts for a break-through, but the US still continues with its obdurate aggressive attitude and attempts to overwhelm its opponent at the bargaining table as well as on the battlefield, to try to keep on its feet its fire-eating quisling Saigon regime, rotten to the core. US deeds completely clash with its protestations of peace and respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and with its so-called search for a fair solution to the South Viet Nam issue through serious negotiations.

There is no denying that a judicious line conductive to such an answer must be dictated by the realities of the situation and by a mind and heart in close touch with them. Such a line has been charted in the PRG 7 points and its September 11 statement. It will safely lead to a genuine peace founded on the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

Mr Nixon's 8 points open an avenue in the opposite direction, an avenue to more war, neo-colonialism, a stalemate and inevitable defeat.

War or peace? It is now up to the US President to answer.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Lao Patriotic Front Delegation Visits DRVN

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a delegation of the Lao Patriotic Front led by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Executive member of the LPF Central Committee, recently paid an official goodwill visit to the DRVN.

The delegation also included:

Thao Mun, member of the LPF Central Committee, deputy head of the delegation; Khamphay Boupha, member of the LPF Central Committee; Thongchan Upravan, member of the LPF Central Committee; Boun Nhun, battalion commander, official of the Logistic Department of the Lao People's Liberation Army Supreme Command; and Kham Phet.

During its stay in the DRVN, the delegation was received by President Ton Duc Thang, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Le Duan and Premier Pham Van Dong.

The delegation held cordial talks with Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Commitee and Vice-Premier of the Government; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Hoang Minh Giam, member of the Front CC and Minister of Culture; Major-General Nguyen Trong Vinh; Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach; and Le Van Hien, DRVN Ambassador to the Kingdom of Laos.

Both delegations reached complete unity of views on all questions raised.

The fruitful visit of the LPF delegation to the DRVN marked a new advance in the solidarity and friendship between the two fraternal peoples. The unity of views in the assessment of the situation as well as the common determination to fight and to assist each other, are sure guarantees for the complete victory of the two nations in the great resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

During the talks, the two parties severely condemned the Nixon administration's frantic escalation of its aggression against both zones of Viet Nam with the massive participation of the US Air Force and Navy while feverishly stepping up the special war in Laos in an attempt to maintain its client administration as an instrument for the carrying out of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and Laos.

Both parties praised the great, all-round and steady successes of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia who have inflicted a setback of strategic significance on the Nixon doctrine, pushing the policy of "Vietnamization of the war" onto the verge of bankruptcy, driving the US and their lackeys into a very passive and critical situation and creating a new situation more favourable than ever to the peoples of the three countries.

The two sides reiterated their fundamental positions regarding the settlement of the problems of Indochina. They urged the US to end its aggression, withdraw totally and unconditionally its troops and troops of its satellites from the Indochinese countries and leave the people of each country to settle their own internal affairs without foreign interference.

They pointed out that as long as the US pursues its aggression against the Indochinese countries, the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia will continue to strengthen their solidarity, and persist in, and push up, their resistance, until the defeat of the "Nixon doctrine" and complete victory of the war of resistance of each people against US aggression, for national salvation.

Both parties agreed to set up a representation of the Lao Patriotic Front in the DRVN.

A Lao PLA unit after the victorious battle for Phum Xang

Here and there

Army Posters

Life Magazine has just reproduced an Army poster representing a GI "full of optimism" with this caption in bold letters:

"The job you learn in the Army is yours to keep!" and a long list of trades one can learn in the army and of advantages they eventually bring the veterans back in Civvy Street.

John Hill, a Viet vet, wrote in his diary that a year had passed since his return home without his being able to find employment. Wherever he went, they showed him a sign saying "No opening. No enquiry."

The total of jobless among the Viet vets is estimated at 300,000.

On August 8, 1972, in a boisterous demonstration in New York, a number of them protested their governor N. Rockefeller's decision to cut out unemployment benefits. They assembled in front of his mansion, displaying placards urging an end to the Viet Nam war and asking for jobs in peace.

At the subsequent meeting, sharp criticism were levelled at Nixon warlike policy which had squandered huge credits in Viet Nam and given no employment to millions of Americans.

Clashes with police occurred, because vets out of work had crossed Army posters put up in public places and printed on them these words: "Bluff! Outrageous bluff!"

Gangsters in Uniform

Thousands of Lon Nol soldiers (including 10-year old "volunteers," shorter in size than their carbines and still under their parents' or brothers' escort when going to the drill ground), reported *AP*, *UPI* and *AFP* on September 9, 1972, are mounting "attack" right in the heart of Phnom Penh virtually in a chaos. They fall on market places, warehouses and carry off anything they can. Groups of troops, armed with rifles, grenades and grenade-throwers, roam about the city's streets, looting rice shops.

According to *Le Nouvel Observateur* (August 25, 1972), in the war zones, Saigon soldiery systematically pillage and steal, with a smile on their lips. Along the My Chanh River, Marines thoroughly ransack South Vietnamese villages, deserted by their inhabitants fleeing from artillery duels and bombardments. These gangsters in uniform are acting deliberately. Their pay is ridiculously poor and they are well aware that the greatest thieves are found in the ranks of the bigwigs. In the Kontum battle, the ecclesiastical district, the seminary, the seats of foreign delegations were respected by the Communist soldiers who did not even touch a ball-point pen. But immediately afterwards, those places were completely sacked by the Saigon troops of General Ly Tong Ba.

The truth behind the Munich Olympic Village Kidnapping

The September 5, 1972 kidnapping of 8 Israeli athletes by 5 Palestinian guerillas at the Munich Olympic village whose ransom was the release of 230 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel ended tragically to the world's sense of shock.

Mr Nixon of course was one of the first statesmen to express his sympathy to the Israeli Prime Minister. Rogers and some governments including that of Jordan, a US and Israeli confederate, severely stigmatized the Palestinian guerillas.

But that was not the whole picture. *AP* quoted *Algiers Radio* as saying on evening of September 6, 1972 that the Israeli and West German governments could avoid a bloodshed but had chosen the path of revenge and treachery... The real causes of the present troubles in the world must be sought and analyzed in the context of a state of things which forces the oppressed people to make their voices heard by all means foul and fair. In Viet Nam, Palestine, Africa, they are the casualties of the very man who brazenly declare their adherence to human principles.

New Marlboroughs

On September 15, 1972, the six men involved in the Watergate affair were summoned for interrogation. They are charged with breaking and entering and theft of documents of the Democratic Party, in the framework of electoral manoeuvres in favour of Nixon (*UPI*).

It was a hard blow at Dick, indeed. But he has more than a trick up his sleeves so hey presto, he whipped up an "unofficial" electioneering committee consisting entirely or almost entirely of relatives of his. The body was immediately set in motion and the division of work was perfect: Pat went to New York; Tricia to Columbus; Julia who is ready to die for the Thieu tyranny to Philadelphia and Edward, his hotel-owner-brother to Maryland.

Only Dick is not on the committee. *Reuter* pointed out that his whole family had been mobilized for the campaigning in 52 great cities.

On September 16, Pat inititated the drive. The First Lady, *UPI* reported, took the floor amidst anti-war demonstrators' boos and shouts: Stop Nixon! Stop the bombings!

Not a heartening debut, wasn't it? One understands now why Dick is reluctant to face public rebuffs, as S. Shriver has remarked.

But don't you think that the ostrich's sense of security is only an illusory one?

Candor

But the farce is going on.

Jane Fonda, invited to Michigan by many members of its teaching body, called for sustained action to expose the real nature of the aggression against Viet Nam and force Nixon to bring it to an end (*AP* September 13).

Asked to comment on the enfant terrible-film star's statement by newspapermen who seem always to enjoy putting awkward questions, Julia Nixon-Eisenhower then in Columbus had this to say: "I think her intentions are good... Although we're miles apart, I think she's trying to do what's right. It isn't helping my father and his efforts, but I cann't condemn her for doing what she thinks is right" (*UPI*, September 9, 1972).

An outburst of candidness which was a direct tribute to the truth and the speaker's own intellectual honesty, but which came rather as a surprise to Dad, didn't it?

Like daughter like mother

Pat, like her daughter, made clear that she "would be willing to die to save freedom for 17 million people!" (*AP*, September 18, 1972).

Against whom! Against her own husband who has ravished it with his "Vietnamized" war? Certainly she will not go Viet Cong, for this purpose. It was only a play on words, a bit too trite to have any effect on the knowledgeable audience.

But there is every sign that the Nixonianas have not ended there.

HUONG NAM

Mr Nixon's posture tens of thousands of miles later

THE Nixon administration and Republican Party principal personages regard foreign affairs as his strongest, if not decisive, assets in the 1972 presidential race. It is no accident that William Rogers has had himself photographed under huge pictures of Nixon shaking hands with foreign leaders to sell the "great initiatives" in external affairs which the US President in his acceptance speech of August 28 asked the American voters for another term to continue. True, Mr Nixon has visited more foreign lands than any other American Chief Executive but in diplomacy as in life, the question is not the mileage one has travelled but one's direction and objectives.

Early this year he said in his message on foreign affairs that the centre of the new concept of the US world role is a more balanced alliance with friends and a more imaginative attitude toward foes. This boils down to better relations with "allies" in the capitalist camp and with "foes" in the socialist camp, which relations seriously deteriorated by the late sixties, owing to the escalated aggression against Viet Nam.

What is Mr Nixon's posture after tens of thousands of miles of globe-trotting ?

SINCE long, each time he refers to the switch from an era of confrontation to an era of negotiation with the socialist countries, he never forgets to make clear that the change can only be operated on the basis of some agreement between the US main allies of the West. Consequently, the first Nixon trip abroad after his inauguration was to Western Europe. It is an open secret that such trips of his and the return visits of heads of friendly countries are no protocol affairs. Besides their agreement to oppose Communism, there exist between the US and the Western European countries and Japan very sharp differences in many respects, particularly in economy and finance. Mr Nixon's more balanced alliance with friends is nothing short of a bitter admission that the US heyday as the capitalist world's big brother-creditor is gone forever. The change in the balance of forces between the US and the principal capitalist countries has been unfavourable to the former and has allowed the latter to voice more forcefully their disproval of many US external policies. The crisis of the dollar is not only a monetary trepidation but also the epitome of the inner political, economic and financial divergences of the West. In this connection, Nixon has over the past years taken arbitrary measures like the 10% import surcharge, non-convertibility of the dollar, forced revaluation of various countries' currencies and other steps to redress the US balance of payments, which have angered friends without improving the US position. In the end, by late December 1971, the US President was compelled to give way by devaluating the dollar and abolish the obviously protective surcharge. However, the US balance of payments continued to be in the red from quarter to quarter and in September Nixon himself had to request Japan's Prime Minister Tanaka to buy an additional billion worth of US goods to cut down the deficit in its trade with Japan expected to run up to 3.8 billion dollars this year. There are at present between the chief US "allies" and the US a host of pending problems which remain unmitigated even after the aforesaid arrangements.

THE so-called imaginative attitude toward foes, has been boasted by him in his acceptance speech, as a great initiative. No doubt his tours abroad were the most dramatic ever made by a US President. But they will have to go a long way before they can increase the chance of peace as he asserted in the nomination address. It is rather hard to overlook the fact that while he was visiting some socialist countries, the US did not cease dropping bombs in growing quantity on Viet Nam and Indochina. While he was grieving over the fate of one Tania, US Air Force and Navy were making tens of thousands of Tanias in Indochina. After his European trip of February 1972 the Nixon administration has requested from US Congress 5 billion dollars for the Viet Nam war. After that of May, 1972, 25 more billion dollars have been asked for the building of new strategic weaponry. Thus Mr Nixon's imaginative attitude towards foes and switch over to an era of peace is accompanied by escalations in a raging war and in the preparation of an eventual confrontation.

Such a policy not only threatens the nations' sovereignty, world peace and security and also faces the US with a disaster. "But I feel that Americans will come to see," wrote former US Defence Secretary recently in the *New York Times* (July 2, 1972), "that President Nixon's version of peace-more war in Viet Nam, more nuclear hardware, more defence expenditures, shaky economy and a lack of trust in government—has not, and will not, bring either peace or security." US present turmoil is the fruit of a quarter century of a line of expansion and aggression. The Viet Nam war and the nuclear race have been heavily weighing on US economy, causing unending deficits in the national budget, fuelling inflation, compounding the dollar's crisis and other internal troubles (racial segregation, urbanism, education, crime...) and external problems, and adding to the ebbing of US power, not only in comparison with the socialist camp but also with other big nations in the capitalist system, including the losers in the Second World War like West Germany and Japan. Nixon's coming to terms with foes is only a smoke-screen for his search for more arms, which will further debilitate the US. In the long run, all the accords he will have concluded will not be able to furbish the US image as he wishes.

IT is impossible to refer to US foreign policy without mentioning Viet Nam, a "minor" question in terms of geography, but a "major" issue in terms of its impact on the US

In the past four years, Nixon has not been able to "win," and to pull out from a war so costly in lives, resources and credit, because of his sticking to his neo-colonialist guns. With his aggression stepped up to an incessantly mounting degree of intensity and atrociousness, he has exposed his "peace-more war" ploy. With his expensive hunt for an unattainable "victory," he has restricted US activities in other areas of the world. The Viet Nam drain has made it impossible to improve the US posture vis-à-vis other powers. In the past four years, Viet Nam has continued in its position as a crucial question in US foreign policy and as a main cause of the aggravating crisis of the US

FOUR years ago, the most reactionary financial circles of the US bolstered up a presidential candidate—twice defeated in 1960 and 1962 and apparently a complete political failure—in an attempt to check the decline of US imperialism. But the "Nixon doctrine," a paragon of reaction and craftiness in foreign affairs, has not succeeded in stemming the tide of revolution. It has suffered stinging setbacks in Viet Nam and Indochina, the centre of the Asian, African and Latin American revolutionary cyclone. It has come to a flop in Chile, Bangla Desh, Sri Lanka and other countries, as evidenced by the rebuff it received at the Georgetown Non-Aligned Countries' Conference.

Nixon asks for another tenure for a wider application of the philosophy named after him. Whether his request will be complied with or not still remains to be seen. But one thing is transparent: Nixon's theory has not been able in the past four years to halt the race downhill of the US and is not likely to fare better in the future.

VAN DUC

Despite repression, the American anti-war fight continues with vigour

Thousands of Britishers demonstrate outside the US embassy in London in protest against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam

Errata

Issue No 164
Article: "Sixty days and nights of furious and successful resistance."
Front page — Column 2 — Line 17.
Please read: "The resulted fierceness of the war has *not* disrupted the battle array of the Quang Tri liberation troops."

We should apologize for this error.

South Viet Nam NFL and PRG Delegation Pays Friendship Visit to Chile

AT the invitation of the Chilean Government, a Delegation of the RSVN PRG and NFL led by Hoang Bich Son, CC member of the NFL and Deputy Foreign Minister of the PRG, paid a friendship visit to Chile from Aug. 31 to Sept. 9, 1972.

During its stay the delegation was cordially received by the President of the Chilean Republic, the Foreign Minister and other members of the Chilean Government, the Speakers of the Chilean Senate and Lower House, and leaders of the Chilean Unique Centre of Workers (CUT) and of the Chilean student movement. It visited Valparaiso and Vinadelma and several work sites, and laid a wreath at the Memorial of Bernado Ohiggins, the Father of Chile's independence. It took part in a TV teach-in organized by the Chilean University, alongside with Radomiro Tomic, candidate to the 1970 Presidential election as representative of the Christian-Democratic opposition Party, and Mrs Maria Maluenda, Secretary general of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Wherever it went, the Delegation was warmly welcomed.

It was entertained at a dinner by President S. Allende right at its arrival in Chile. Guests at the function included the Secretaries General of the United Popular Action Movement and the Communist Party, the Presidents of the Radical Party and the Independent Popular Action, Senator Maria Elena Carrera, member of the Socialist Party C.C. and President of the Chile-Viet Nam Friendship Institute, Mrs Maria Maluenda, secretary general of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, and for Health, and the Deputy Foreign Minister. Declared President S. Allende on that occasion, "I had the honour to meet and talk with a great man — President Ho Chi Minh — whom I regard as still alive, because a man like President Ho Chi Minh lives for ever in his people's cause. We are aware that the Vietnamese people are fighting not only for their own independence and freedom, but also for the sake of all oppressed peoples throughout the world. That is why we love and admire them."

When the Delegation made a surprise-visit to the already nationalized *Cervecería Unida* brewery, the workers there asked for a 15-minute work stoppage to hold a welcome meeting in its honour. At the TV teach-in, Radomiro Tomic warmly praised the Vietnamese people's unbending fight, and said: "The Vietnamese people have achieved feats unknown in the history of mankind. They are saving mankind's honour, for which the world owes gratitude to them."

The Sept. 8 communiqué by the Chilean Foreign Ministry on the Delegation's visit said: "The Chilean Government recognizes the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. On the basis of this recognition and guided by the desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, both governments have agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

"Chile and South Viet Nam condemn all threats and pressure exerted against Governments taking practical steps in legitimate exercise of their own sovereignty. The Republic of South Viet Nam opposes in particular the US government's reprisals against the sovereign and independent policy of Chile in recovering her basic natural resources. The PRG delegation associated itself with the process now unfolding in Chile under the leadership of the Popular United Alliance Government.

"The Chilean Government expresses its strongest sympathy and support for the Vietnamese people's struggle against imperialism for the safeguard of national independence; at the same time it condemns US aggression in this region. The Chilean Government is of the opinion that the US should set a fixed deadline for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from the Vietnamese territory, dismantle its war machinery, withhold all support from the Saigon administration, and leave the Vietnamese people alone to set up a government of national concord.

"The Chilean Government reiterates its resolute support for the seven-point solution with its two-point elaboration put forward by the RSVN PRG at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

"The Chilean Government severely condemns US acts of aggression against the territory and people of the DRVN and once again demands immediate and definitive cessation of all US attacks and destruction of dykes, orchards and fields, schools and hospitals, as well as of its blockade and mining of ports of the sovereign and independent DRVN..."

On behalf of the South Viet Nam people, NFL and PRG, Hoang Bich Son voiced deep and sincere gratitude to the Chilean people, the Popular United Alliance Government and President S. Allende for their staunch support to the South Vietnamese people's fight for national independence, and for the cordial, friendly and brotherly welcome accorded to the delegation by the Chilean Popular Government, State services and mass organizations.

The visit of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG Delegation wound up in complete success. On the evening of Sept. 9, the Delegation left Chile for home.

Hail the Japanese People's anti-US coordinated action

FOR nearly two months now, Japanese progressives' effort to block the transport of South Viet Nam-bound US tanks repaired at Sagamihara base has been gaining in intensity and magnitude. Demonstrations and rallies have been repeatedly staged at the base and Yokohama port. The protesters erected tents outside the former base and picketed it round-the-clock.

The drive reached its climax with the September 2 meeting held by over 20,000 representatives of 380 organisations under the watchword: "Stop the dispatch of US-made tanks and support the Vietnamese," and the September 10 rally attended by nearly 10,000 people most of them students and workers.

On September 18 and 19, large crowds also besieged Sagamihara and Yokohama. On US orders, the Japanese reactionary authorities mobilized 6,000 police agents to escort the US convoy and keep watch along the 18-mile long road linking the base to the port. A violent clash took place between the police and the marchers throughout the night of September 18 till next morning. Many protesters stood in the way of M-113 cars to prevent them from moving on. A number of people were arrested or injured. But up to now, none of the armoured vehicles has been able to leave the base.

Also on September 18 and 19, the Japanese Communist and Socialist Parties issued statements scoring the Japanese government for allowing the US to use Sagamihara and other bases in the country for serving the Viet Nam aggressive war. The two Parties also joined the Sagamihara Trade Union Council in a mass meeting which passed a resolution demanding an immediate end to the ferrying to South Viet Nam of US tanks repaired in Japan. They also pledged to push ahead the nation-wide movement for the dismantling of US military bases in Japan, against the Viet Nam and Indochina wars, and for the cancellation of the Japan-US Security Treaty.

The popular protest action in Sagamihara has won the approval of the authorities in the localities through which runs the highway leading from Sagamihara base to Yokohama, and has had great repercussion throughout the world. In a session, the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam Permanent Committee made an appeal calling for universal support to this struggle. It was a blow at the Tanaka reactionary clique's continued collusion with the US in Asia, especially in the Viet Nam aggressive war as reaffirmed at the Nixon-Tanaka Honolulu meeting on September 1. The ruthless repression against the marchers in Sagamihara amply substantiated the statement of Miyamoto Kenji, the Japanese Communist Party President, that "the replacement of Sato by Tanaka is but a change of casts inside the Liberal Democratic Party to suit the Nixon doctrine — the US imperialists' new global strategy."

Japanese demonstrators picket US military base to block Viet Nam — bound tank shipment

To the South Vietnamese who have been stepping up their offensives and uprisings, the Japanese people's struggle in Sagamihara is a well-timed coordinated action with their own resistance and a splendid manifestation of the militant solidarity between the Japanese and South Vietnamese in the common struggle for independence, peace, neutrality and social progress. With their practical and courageous deeds, the Japanese have played an effective part in restricting the US imperialists' crimes in Viet Nam and vigorously encouraged the South Vietnamese to march forward and win new successes.

With sincere thanks and deep admiration for the fraternal Japanese people's militant endeavour, the South Vietnamese are resolved to keep up the fight at the side of the Japanese till the US imperialists and their agents' dark designs are frustrated and the two peoples' sacred cause completely triumph, thereby contributing to a lasting peace in Asia and the world.

DAI LIEN

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION